



Missouri Department of Mental Health

Missouri Institute of Mental Health

Substance Abuse Traffic Offenders Program (SATOP)

Brief 3

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Gender Differences in Offender/Clients

From November 1, 1996 through January 15, 1997, data were collected from 929 male and 230 female offender/clients at 13 SATOPs located in urban and rural areas throughout Missouri. This third brief presents gender differences in the SATOP offender-clients surveyed.

Demographic Profiles

The typical male offender-client was a 36 year old Caucasian working full- (78%) or part-time (8%). Only 31% were married. Most worked in skilled, manual or service-oriented/semi-skilled jobs (73%). Also represented were business or other professionals (19%) and clerical and administrative personnel (8%). The majority (83%) had at least a high school education and 23% of those held degrees at the associate level or above.

Females represented almost 20% of the total offender/client pool. The typical female offender-client was a 34 year old Caucasian working full- (61%) or part-time (17%). Only 28% were married. Most worked as clerical and administrative personnel (40%) or in skilled, manual or service-oriented/semi-skilled jobs (39%). Also represented, however, were business or other professionals (20%). The majority (81%) had at least a high school education and 27% of those held degrees at the associate level or above.

Male and female offenders were found in each SATOP component. There were relatively fewer

women than men in WIPs and CIPs. Table 1, however, shows that as the program intensity increased, percentage of females decreased.

Table 1: Number (Percentage) of Males & Females by Program

	<i>OEP</i>	<i>WIP</i>	<i>CIP</i>
<i>Males</i>	481 (76%)	353 (84%)	87 (88%)
<i>Females</i>	151 (24%)	66 (16%)	12 (12%)

Note: OEP - Offender Education Program, WIP - Weekend Intervention Program, CIP - Clinical Intervention Program

Drinking Problem Severity

Males and females were compared on the three measures of drinking problem severity. These include (1) number of DWIs **including the current arrest**; (2) blood alcohol content level (BAC), and (3) scores on the Mortimer Filkins test, a test to determine severity of drinking problem.

DWIs

The number of DWIs reported ranged from 1 to 7 for males and 1 to 4 for females. The average number of DWIs for males was 1.59 (SD = .91) and for females was 1.35 (SD = .68). As Table 2 shows, the average number of DWIs increased for both men and women as the intensity of program component increased, but women in WIP's and CIP's had fewer DWIs, on average, than men.



Table 2: Average Number of DWIs by Gender & Program

	<i>OEP</i>		<i>WIP</i>		<i>CIP</i>	
	<i>M</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>F</i>
<i>Average number of DWIs including current arrest</i>	1.1	1.1	2.0	1.8	3.0	2.5

BAC

We had BACs on almost $\frac{3}{4}$ of offender-clients. Males had BACs ranging from .10 to .40, while females' BACs ranged from .10 to .33. Males and females both had an average BAC of .15 (SD = .04).

Table 3: Average BACs by Gender & Program

	<i>OEP</i>		<i>WIP</i>		<i>CIP</i>	
	<i>M</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>F</i>
<i>Average BAC</i>	.14	.14	.16	.17	.17	.17

Mortimer Filkins

The Mortimer Filkins test classifies persons with scores of 16 and higher as problem drinkers, 12 to 15 as highly likely a problem drinker, and 11 and below as not a problem drinker. Scores can range from a low of 0 to a high of 54. Scores for the 929 males who completed the scale ranged from 0 to 42 with an average of 10.2 (SD = 7.0). Scores for the 230 females who completed the scale were similar, ranging from 1 to 41 with an average of 10.8 (SD = 7.8). These scores would place the average offender-client in the category in which he or she was probably not a problem drinker. Like the BAC and number of DWIs, however, average scores increased as the intensity of

program component increased. Table 4 shows these relationships:

Table 4: Mortimer Filkins Averages by Gender & Program

	<i>OEP</i>	<i>WIP</i>	<i>CIP</i>
<i>Males</i>	8.5	11.1	15.0
<i>Females</i>	9.2	12.9	21.5

It was not expected that the average scores of women would be higher than those for men in all three program components. For the small number of women in CIP, the average Mortimer Filkins score was considerably higher than for men.

Post Program Follow-up Suggestions

Follow-up was recommended to many offender-clients (47% males; 36% females) following completion of their SATOP assignment. This included recommendations to attend Alcoholics Anonymous (37% males, 25% females) and, less frequently, outpatient counseling (17% males; 15% females).

Conclusion

The demographic picture for male and female offender-clients was similar, although females tended to be slightly younger. In addition, fewer females were working full-time and, as might be expected, were more frequently found in clerical and administrative positions.

The BACs of females were equivalent to those of males, but women had fewer DWIs and higher Mortimer Filkins scores, on average. Because there were so few females in CIPs, however, the Mortimer Filkins data need to be interpreted cautiously. A possible reason for the relatively high scores may include that women are more likely to admit to problem drinking and, therefore, score higher than men.

